

CONSIDERATIONS V.

ON THE
DISPUTE

Now depending before

The Honourable House of
COMMONS, between the British,
Southern, and Northern Planta-
tions in America.

In a LETTER to — Mr. Wm. Wood.

now Secretary of the
Customs



L O N D O N .

Printed for J. Roberts, in Warwick-
Lane. 1731. [Price 6 d.]

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ЧОРИДА

САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГ



CONSIDERATIONS ON THE DISPUTE

Now depending before

The Honourable House of Com-

mons,

Sir,

S I have at Heart the Pro-

sperity of Great Britain, so I

assure you, that our Sugar

Plantations are my favourite

Contemplation.

UPON reading the *Daily-Post-Boy*
of Monday the first of March instant, I
met with a Piece, intitled, *Observations*

on the Trade carried on between our Plantations and the foreign Colonies in America, occasioned by a Petition presented to the Honourable House of Commons the twenty-third of the last Month, wherein the Author says, " That he makes no doubt but the Gentlemen who signed the Petition complaining of the Trade carried on between our Plantations and the foreign Colonies in America, are of that Opinion, tho' he cannot be of their Mind, that such Commerce is injurious to the Trade of these Kingdoms."

At first Sight you will plainly see that he has not distinguish'd the Points in Question before the Parliament, or the Matter complained of. Our Northern Colonies supplying the foreign Plantations with Lumber, Provisions, Horses, &c. is not the Point under Consideration; but their buying Sugar, Molasses and Rum, in Prejudice to our Sugar Colonies, occasions the Complaint. This Trade of the Northern Colonies with the French, may increase our Navigation, as he supposes, but the Reason of that Increase, carries with it pernicious Consequences to the Trade of our

our Sugar Islands, our Trade to *Africa*,
and to the Wealth of *Great Britain*.

THIS Trade is plainly detrimental to the Kingdom, when no Returns are made in Money, or any Commodities we stand in need of, but only in European Goods, and Molasses, and Rum ; the former interfere with our *British* Manufactures in general, and the latter with our *British* Malt Spirits in particular.

THE low Price *British* Spirits bear, is one Reason why we should discourage the Importation of foreign Rum, or Molasses to supply the Room of 'em.

THE Opportunity this Intercourse of Trade gives our Northern Colonies of being supply'd with *French* European Goods, is another Reason against it : We all know the Fondness among us for *French* Fashions, Wines, &c. and though the Importation of them into our Colonies is prohibited by Law, yet as long as this great Intercourse of Trade is suffered, it will be impossible to prevent it on so large a Continent as *America*.

THE Quantity of Sugar now made in *America*, is greater than Europe can consume ; it is therefore of Consequence to us not to give Foreigners a Preference for the Vend of their own Produce in any Part of his Majesty's Dominions : And,

AS the *French* have a Power by a Treaty between us, to seize all our Ships that Trade with their Plantations, so it is manifest, that it is either out of Necessity, or for their own Advantage, they suffer it.

CANADA is a barren Country, with a rapid River, navigable only in the Summer Months, and always difficult and dangerous, and therefore their Sugar Plantations must suffer very much if they are deprived of this Trade with our Northern Colonies ; and besides the Opportunity this Trade gives the *French* of selling their European Goods, they have an Opportunity of selling their Rum and Molasses (the taking of which is made the Condition of permitting this Trade) to Advantage, and thereby are enabled to undersel us

in the Sugar Trade, the French having no Vend. for their Rum and Molasses at home, because of the Quantity they have of French Brandy at a cheap Rate, and of which they endeavour at the same Time to encourage the Consumption.

THE Produce of our Sugar Colonies may be valued at a moderate Computation 1,500,000*l.* per Annum, which is so much additional Wealth to Great Britain; unless our own Islands did produce it, we must pay Foreigners for so much of it as we should want for our home Consumption, and lose the Return we now have of so much as is Exported from hence. There can be only one Instance where it may be otherwise, and that is, when it so happens that we should have no Demand from Abroad for our own Plantation Commodities, by reason of the Encouragement given to Foreigners; and therefore whatever tends either to lessen the Quantity of Sugar, Molasses and Rum produced by our own Islands, or to increase the Produce of Foreigners, occasions a proportionable Loss of Wealth to Great Britain; and these will be

be some other of the bad Consequences of the Trade complained of.

SINCE the Author of the *Observations* allows, That by the Excellency of our Constitution every Subject has a Right, an indisputed Right, to declare his Sentiments where any Branch of her Trade shall appear to be inconvenient, unprofitable, or injurious ; I shall therefore enlarge my Thoughts on the Subject in Hand, by making more Use of the Liberty of that Right, enforcing the Reasons already laid down, and giving you other Observations, why that Trade complained of is injurious to the Trade of these Kingdoms.

First, I will suppose what will be readily granted, That it is the Interest of Great Britain that there should be a friendly Intercourse and Correspondence between our Settlements on the Main, and those in our Sugar Colonies, and that they should supply and assist each other with the various Commodities and Growth of each others Colonies : And as it is the Interest of their Mother Country that they should be happy, and flourish

flourish under some reasonable Restrictions, therefore she has laid a high Duty on Rum Imported into *Great Britain* from her Colonies, that the Sugar Islands should have sufficient Quantities to supply their Brethren on the Continent, and which is generally done by Barter and Exchange for live and dead Flesh, Timber for building, &c.

AS in Morality, so in Politicks; not a single Person must be considered in Prejudice to the Society to which he belongs; nor one Community or Colony to the Disadvantage of another under one Sovereign: It is the Good of the Whole ought ever to come under Consideration: It may indeed be advantageous to *New-England*, *New-York*, and *Pensilvania*, to deal in such a manner (as complained of) with the *French* Settlements, tho' it be detrimental to the *British* Sugar Colonies, and in consequence to their Mother Country. Should she favour one Settlement more than another, she would undoubtedly take off the high Duty on Rum, and then all our Rum would come home in
or vice versa and make no Prejudice
one

Prejudice to our Northern Colonies,
and in the End be hurtful to herself.

ALL the Molasses (which is the Filth and Excrement of the Sugar) with which they make Rum, was formerly thrown away, or of no Value with the French Planter, only because Rum was detrimental to their Mother Country by hindering the Consumption of her Brandy : But when the industrious, cunning French (within a few Years) saw what Profit they could make of their Molasses, by selling it as such, and making Rum of it, they soon went to work, and fell into a Trade for it with our Northern Colonies ; they could afford to sell it cheap, or indeed at any rate, and were supplied with Timber, Horses, Oxen, and other Goods and Commodities that they could not be without, in return for it, which otherwise they must have paid in Specie.

AT present it stands thus with our Sugar Islands and those Colonies on the Main ; Those on the Continent, sell them on the Islands, Timber, Shingles, Horses, Oxen, &c. for Specie, not in Barter as formerly, and the Money they carry to the

the French to purchase Molasses and Rum ; and as the French by this new Way of Trade, and dealing with our Northern Colonies, by selling for Something, that which was formerly worth Nothing, viz. Molasses and Rum, have been enabled to encrease their Settlements by purchasing of Negros, erecting of Mills, Boyling, Curing, and Still Houses, and have also been encouraged in extending and enlarging the *African* Trade, which is now five times more than it was ten Years since ; so on the contrary, it has been a vast Discouragement to our Planters in enlarging their Settlements, and making new Sugar Works, especially in *Jaimaica* and St. *Christophers*, where there are large Quantities of Land for new Settlements. Besides, this Traffick has other great Ills attending it, as that of inhansing the Price of Negros, Provisions, and Lumber, and indeed almost all other Necessaries for planting ; and by this Method of Trade, the French bear the Expences of their Plantations, and their Sugar is all Profit, which, without this Advantage, part must go towards the Requisites for planting.

C HOW

HOW greatly do our Northern Colonies now vary from their first Method of Trade, when they only supplied our Sugar Plantations with Horses, Lumber, Shingles, &c. and in return, received Sugar, Molasses, Rum, &c. They on the Continent then dealt only with their Brethren on our Islands, and this chiefly occasioned their sudden Rise and flourishing Condition.

THERE are Persons, now living, who very well remember, that there was great Quantities of Provisions of all Kinds, and Requisites for planting, sent from *Old England* to our Sugar Colonies, because, at that time, our Northern Settlements were not able fully to supply them: And it must not be forgot, that as our Colonies on the Main increased with Inhabitants, so they came at length, to outvie their Mother Country in these Articles, by supplying the Sugar Settlements with Provisions of all Kinds; and it was early objected, that thereby they would prove injurious to *Great Britain*: And this Objection you have considered, and lest it may not be remembered, I shall transcribe what you

you have said concerning it, * " That
 " as the Colonies of *New England*,
 " *New York*, *Pensilvania*, &c. make us
 " no Return of themselves, in propor-
 " tion to what they take annually from
 " us, or yeild Commodities of little
 " Value, so they have drain'd us most
 " of People: The Fact is so; but if it
 " were otherwife, the Affairs of other
 " Plantations could not, perhaps, be so
 " well carry'd on; for those Soils which
 " produce the richer Goods, are not so
 " proper to cultivate for the Nourish-
 " ment of Life, and to yield Corn, Beef,
 " Pork, Pease, &c. (which, if they
 " were, the Hands in them are much
 " more advantageously employed for the
 " Interest of themselves and their Mother
 " Kingdom); so that the Southern
 " Plantations, especially in time of War,
 " would be destitute of many Necef-
 " saries, or put upon employing their
 " Hands in planting of Provisions, were
 " it not for the Nearness and Industry of
 " the Northern Colonies. 'Tis true,
 " these Provisions might be furnish'd
 " from *Great Britain*, but at such a
 " Rate as would, peradventure, much

* Vide Survey of Trade.

" discourage the Southern Planters ; for
" besides they being all considerably
" dearer, so some kinds of them could
" neither be so good, nor so fresh. But
" tho' the People of New York, New
" England, Pensilvania, &c. may fur-
" nish *Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua,*
" *Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Christo-*
" *pher's*, with what might be sent them
" from this Kingdom, yet they make it
" ample amends by fetching, or taking
" from it, variety of Manufactures, all
" Sorts of Cloaths and Houshold Furni-
" ture, much oftener renew'd, and as
" good as the same Number of People
" could afford to have it at home. So
" that the Question, Whether the Nor-
" thern Colonies are good for *Great*
" *Britain* or no, will depend on making
" a right Ballance between the Com-
" modities we send thither, and the
" Provisions we might send to the
" Southern Plantations, if they were
" not supplied by *New England*, &c.
" But I am inclined to think, the pre-
" sent Course most advantagious to this
" Kingdom, for this Reason, because
" the Provisions we might send to *Bar-*
" *bados*, &c. would be the unimproved
" Product of the Earth, as Grain of all
" Kind,

" Kind, or such Product where there
 " is little got by the Improvement, as
 " Salt Beef, Pork, &c. but the Goods
 " we send to the Northern Colonies,
 " are such, whose Improvements may
 " be justly said, one with another, to
 " bear near Four-fifths of the Value of
 " the whole Commodities, as Apparel,
 " Household Furniture, and many other
 " Things.

" THE Colonies and Plantations
 " belonging to *Great Britain*, are of
 " very great Advantage, and high-
 " ly beneficial to it; and as the
 " Northern Colonies now answer their
 " Returns for the Goods of all Kinds
 " sent them from *Great Britain*, by
 " means chiefly of our Sugar Islands, it
 " shews how much it behoves us to se-
 " cure and preserve, increase and en-
 " courage them; for without our Sou-
 " thern Plantations, our Northern Co-
 " lonies can be of no real Advantage to
 " us, since what they are at present,
 " must cease on the Decay or Loss of
 " the Sugar Islands, from whence their
 " Value to *Great Britain* chiefly arises,
 " and for want of which they would be
 " otherwise prejudicial Colonies to their
 " Mother Country." I

I CANNOT help being of Opinion, that every Person who thinks rightly, must approve of your Sentiments; but I dare say, that you little expected, at the time you were arguing in the manner you do for the Northern Colonies, that in so few Years afterwards they would enter into a Trade in direct Opposition to the Interest of the Inhabitants of our Sugar Colonies: You seem to promise, that instead of employing themselves in carrying on a Trade so very prejudicial to *Great Britain*, they would have employed their Hands in planting other Commodities besides what were for the immediate Use of the Sugar Colonies, and this is plainly seen in the very next Paragraph which runs thus; " But the Northern Colonies might be made more Advantageous to their Mother Country than they have hitherto been, or otherwise can be, if all necessary Encouragement were given by this Kingdom for the supplying us with naval Stores, which they might be made capable of doing in very great Quantities. Whether the present Encouragement

" ragement is equal to the Concern it
" may be to us, I shall not pretend to
" to say, only that we ought not to re-
" gard the Expence of any present En-
" couragement at first, when we con-
" sider the future Advantages and Se-
" curity, not only of our Trade and
" Navigation, but of all his Majesty's
" Dominions : And 'tis most certain,
" whatever shall be paid the Northern
" Colonies as a Bounty at first to enter
" heartily and chearfully upon the doing
" of this, will not be lost to the Nation,
" but still remain with us, which can't
" be said of what we pay to the East
" Country (over and above what they
" take from us in Manufactures) which
" I have observed in my second Division,
" amounts to about 200,000*l.* a Year,
" and would be so much saved to the
" Nation could we have the same from
" our own People ; for tho' our naval
" Stores from the Northern Colonies,
" would be at first dearer to the Publick
" than at present from the East Country,
" yet the enhanced Price would be paid to
" the Product of our own Lands, to the
" Labour of our own People, and to the
" Freight of our own Ships, and would
" center among ourselves, which is now
" paid

" paid to the East Country, and never
 " returns to us. The Encouragements
 " likewise at first necessary, need not
 " be continued long ; for the People
 " induced by these Encouragements at
 " first, to turn their Lands to the raising
 " of Hemp, &c. and to the making of
 " Tar, &c. in lieu of sowing Corn, &c.
 " would fall into this Method, and their
 " Gain would turn to so much better
 " Account, they would not leave it
 " after once enter'd into it ; and the
 " Improvement this would be to our
 " Northern Colonies, would employ a
 " greater Number of Hands, and to a
 " much greater Advantage than at pre-
 " sent they do, which would conse-
 " quently occasion their greater Demand
 " and Consumption of the Manufactures
 " and Goods of Great Britain of all
 " Sorts."

I A M not unacquainted that it is
 also objected, That you yourself have
 approved of this very great Trade which
 is petitioned against, and have declared it
 as a Trade which ought to be encourag'd
 as Advantageous to this Kingdom. For
 my own Part, I have read your Book
 over and over, and must be of Opinion,
 that

that you do not say any thing to warrant this Objection, but that it may be seen what you do say, and that the World may judge whether the Objection is well founded, I shall transcribe the Passages which any way relate to this Subject.

" I may safely advance, that our
 " Trade and Navigation are greatly in-
 " creased by our Colonies and Planta-
 " tions, and that they are a Spring of
 " Wealth to this Nation, since they
 " work for us, and their Treasure cen-
 " ters all here: And as the Laws have
 " ty'd them fast to us, it must be thro'
 " our own Fault and Misgovernment if
 " they do not ever continue to enrich
 " Great Britain, or any, or all of them
 " become independent of it. 'Tis indeed
 " true, if a Branch of the Navigation
 " Act should be conniv'd at, even our
 " own Plantations may become more
 " profitable to other Nations than to
 " this Kingdom; but while the Gover-
 " nors, and the several Officers under
 " the Crown, whose Business it is to
 " take care hereof, do their Duty
 " while they are not suffered to carry
 " the Growth of their own, or other
D " our

“ our Colonies, to foreign European
“ Countries, and in exchange bring from
“ thence the Commodities of such Euro-
“ pean Countries, or foreign Colonies to
“ be consumed among them, we can ne-
“ ver be in danger of this, nor can
“ they be ever detrimental to this Na-
“ tion: But by insisting, that no Breach
“ in the Navigation Act be connived
“ at, I would not have it infer'd, that
“ I am against permitting the Inhabi-
“ tants of our Colonies and Plantations
“ to Trade with, or sell their Product
“ one among another; or that they
“ should be prohibited to Trade to the
“ Colonies or Plantations of any fo-
“ reign Nation, with the Goods and
“ Merchandise of the Growth and Ma-
“ nufacture of Europe, which have been
“ sent from hence; or the Provisions
“ of our Northern Colonies, altho' in
“ return they should not bring Gold
“ and Silver, but the Product of that
“ Country they should Trade to: And
“ altho' such Product interfere with, or
“ be of the same Species with any of
“ our Colonies or Plantations Produce.
“ This may not, perhaps, be relished
“ by our Planters; but if they will not
“ allow it to be for their Interest in
“ particular

" particular, I am sure they can't dispute its being for the Interest of
 " Great Britain in general : For by this
 " means we render foreign Colonies
 " and Plantations to be, in effect, the
 " Colonies and Plantations of Great
 " Britain. And this brings me to say,
 " That all Laws in our Southern Plan-
 tations, which lay great Duties on
 " Sugar, Indigo, Ginger, and other
 " West India Commodities imported
 " into them, will be found, when fully
 " and impartially considered, not only
 " prejudicial to them, but to the Trade
 " and Navigation of this Kingdom ;
 " and that it is our Interest, and should
 " be our Care, that no Laws laying
 " such high Duties remain in force,
 " or be passed for the future, in any
 " of our Plantations : For the Inhabi-
 tants, by carrying on a Trade with
 " their Foreign Neighbours, do not
 " only occasion a greater Quantity of
 " the Goods and Merchandise of Eu-
 rope being sent from hence to them,
 " and a greater Quantity of the Product
 " of America, to be sent from them
 " hither, which would otherwise be
 " carried from, and brought to Europe
 " by Foreigners, but an Increase of

" the Sea-faring Men, and Navigation
" of those Parts, which is of great
" Strength and Security, as well as of
" great Benefit and Advantage to our
" Colonies and Plantations. The Com-
" modities they bring from the Countries
" Traded with by them, whether *Sugar*,
" *Indigo*, *Cochineal*, *Logwood*, *Cotton-*
" *Wool*, *Sarsaparilla*, and other *Drugs*,
" are such as are either exported from
" *Great Britain*, or useful to us in work-
" ing up Manufactures, or such as we
" should want, and must send for, at a
" much dearer Price, from the Mother
" Countries of those People with whom
" ours may Trade in *America*. And tho'
" some of our Colonies are not only
" for preventing the Importation of all
" Goods of the same Specie they pro-
" duce, but suffer particular Planters to
" keep great Runs of Land in their Pos-
" session uncultivated on purpose to
" prevent New Settlements; whereby
" they apprehend the Prices of their
" Commodities may be effected; yet if
" it be considered, that the Markets in
" *Great Britain* depend on the Markets
" of all Europe in general; and that the
" European Markets in general depend on
" the Proportion, between the annual
" Consumption,

" Consumption, and the whole Quantity
 " of each Species annually produced
 " by all Nations; it must then follow, that
 " whether we or Foreigners are the Pro-
 " ducers, Carriers, Importers, and Ex-
 " porters of *American Goods*, yet their
 " respective Prices in each particular Colony
 " (the Difference of Freights, Cus-
 " toms and Importations considered) will
 " always bear Proportion to the general
 " Consumption of the whole Quantity of
 " each Sort produced in all Colonies,
 " and in all Parts, allowing only for
 " the usual Accidents that Trade and
 " Commerce, Agriculture and Manu-
 " factures, are subject to in all Coun-
 " tries; such as a particular Colony be-
 " ing under or over Traded to, and un-
 " der or over supply'd with Goods and
 " Shipping from other Places; having
 " greater or smaller Crops, and de-
 " manding more or less Supplies of Ship-
 " ping one Year than another. If this
 " be admitted, then it must certainly be
 " the Interest of our Colonies, as well
 " as of their Mother Kingdom, to en-
 " large their Settlements, and to suffer
 " the Produce of Foreign Plantations in
 " English Shipping to be freely Impor-
 " ted and Exported again to Great Bri-
 " tain;

" gain; for narrow limited Notions in
 " Trade and Planting, are only advan-
 " ced by, and can only be of use to par-
 " ticular Persons, but are always in-
 " jurious to the Public; in preventing
 " the Employment of our own People,
 " and giving our Competitors the op-
 " portunity of employing greater Num-
 " bers of theirs, producing greater Quan-
 " tities of Goods, and under-selling us
 " at Foreign Markets.

THIS Passage clearly shews that you
 are not arguing for the Northern Colonies to Trade with the *French* Settlements for *Rum*, *Molasses* and *European Goods*, or in Prejudice to the Product of the *British Colonies*, or the *Manufactures of Great Britain*; since your Argument is restrained to the *Trading with Foreign Colonies with the Goods and Merchandizes sent from this Kingdom to the British Plantations, and there taking only in return Sugar, Indigo, Cochineal, Logwood, Cotton, Wool, Sarsaparilla, and other Drugs; which are such Commodities as are either exported or useful to us in working up our Manufactures.*

YOURS is not an Argument for the carrying

carrying on a Trade with the *French Colonies*, by supplying them with *Provisions, Horses, Lumber, &c.* and taking in return only *Molasses and Rum*; or in other Words, what they cannot have without having them from us, and taking from them what they can only sell to us. This is a Trade I dare say you never meant should be carried on by any British Subject, nor would you have willingly carried on by the Inhabitants of the British Northern Colonies.

IT is justly observed by you, " That the *real Advantages* which the Northern Colonies are to this Kingdom, must cease on the Decay or Loss of the Sugar Islands, from whence their Value to *Great Britain* chiefly arises and for want of which they would be otherwise prejudicial Colonies to their Mother Country, unless restrained from setting up Manufactures and employing themselves in Trade, interfering with the Trades and Manufactures of this Kingdom." I intirely agree with you in this Observation, for it plainly appears that their chief Use and Benefit arises to this Nation from their being able to supply the British Sugar Colonies

nies so much cheaper with Provisions and Necessaries for Planting, then they could have them otherwise, or even from this Kingdom; from whence it follows, that the Trade they should be kept to, besides the Fishing and Indigo Trades: Their Planting of Hemp, Flax, &c. should be the supplying the Sugar Colonies with Provisions, Lumber, Horses, &c.

THIS is their proper Business, and not that of supplying the *French* with all the Requisites for Planting, and taking in return their Rum and Molasses, whereby the *French* Planters are enabled to increase their Settlements to a degree which they cou'd not otherwise possibly do.

HOWEVER, I desire not to be understood that I am for restraining our Fellow Subjects on the *American* Continent from Trading to Foreign Parts, though not any part of his Majesty's Dominions; I mean no such thing, but only their being restrained in carrying on a Trade which is hurtful to their Mother Country and advantagious to Foreigners; and tho' they may complain of it, and think it a Hardship, yet this is what

what the Legislature have a Power and a Right to do, and have often exercised by depriving at different Times the Subjects of *Great Britain* from carrying on Trades, (however Advantageous to some Individual's) destructive to the Manufactures, and contrary to the real Interest of this Kingdom. They have even prohibited *Ireland* from exporting any Wooll, or Wooll manufactured to Foreign Parts, under the severest Penalties; and therefore they may with equal Reason prohibit the Northern People from manufacturing Goods, which are manufactured in *Great Britain*, and from carrying on a Trade which will necessarily increase the *French* Settlements in *America*, by the Ruin of the *British* Sugar Islands.

I am satisfied you must know it much better than myself, and therefore I omit saying any thing on the present flourishing Condition of the *French* Settlements so greatly encreased of late Years, mostly by the Trade complained of, or the present declining Condition of the *British* Islands, chiefly owing to the same Cause, or mentioning what
 Establishments ~~are~~ ^{will} be made to assist

will discourage the Increase of the one, and encourage the Increase of the other, any more than to observe that a Prohibition of this Trade will tend thereto, as it will necessarily make Horses, Lumber, &c. come much dearer to the French Planters, and cheaper to the British Planters ; for notwithstanding what may have been advanced in a * Pamphlet published since my beginning this Letter. The French cannot possibly be supplied with Horses or Mules from the Spaniards but for ready Money, and at high Prices, nor with Lumber of any kinds from Mobile, Pansecola, and Fort Louis, in the Bay of Apalacy ; and I have shewn by giving my Reasons for it, that the French cannot be supplied with Lumber, &c. from Canada ; and it is not so much as pretended they can from Cape Briton, much more that the Spaniards, or the French settled at Mobile, Pansecola, and Fort Louis, or Cape Briton, would, in return, take from the French Sugar Planters their Rum and Molasses.

* Vide Remarks upon a Book, entitled, The Present State of the Sugar Colonies considered.

I pur-

I purpos'd, when I first sat down to trouble you with this Letter, to have said something on the want of White People in our Sugar Colonies, and the Necessity there is of taking care that a sufficient Number should be kept by every Planter in Proportion to a certain Number of Negroes ; and at the same Time pointed out a Method for encouraging White People to go over and settle in our Southern, not our Northern, Colonies ; and offering some Thoughts, not only for the Security and Protection of our Sugar Islands, but the increasing and enlarging our Sugar Trade to the particular Encouragement of the Planters, and the general Advantage of the Nation ; but I shall not say any thing on these Heads, more than that I hope the most proper Steps will be taken to prevent the *French* from settling the Islands in *America* belonging to *Great Britain*, and the going upon the immediate settling of them ourselves. A Matter of too much Consequence to be neglected, and of too great Moment to the Nation not to have effected : And this I am brought to mention, by having

a Pamphlet lying before me, wherein I find the Writer saying, * *That if the French could not have Lumber otherwise, they would make free with Dominico, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent for it; as they have hitherto done for Millwood, and their principal Timber;* and adding, *That if we were to exert ourselves, as he believes we have a Right to do, and hinder them, yet that he has shewn where they would have enough.* I have read the Pamphlet very carefully, and must own, he has often said it, but has not once shewn it, and I will venture to say, that he is the only Person who has been in the *West Indies*, and knows any thing of that Part of the World, or of its Navigation, that will take upon him to advance, *That the French can be supplied with Lumber from their Settlements of Mobile, Pansecola, and Fort Louis, in the Bay of Apalacy, and that more Voyages in a Year can be made between Mobile and Martinico, than between Boston and Martinico:* But admitting this were the Case, will the French, at their Settlements take off

* Vide Remarks on the Present State of the Sugar Colonies considered.

the Rum and Molasses of the *French* Planters ; without his shewing at the same Time this will follow, he only answers the Objection in Part.

BUT this Writer not only alarms his Readers with the Freedoms we may expect the *French* will make use of in supplying themselves with Lumber from our Islands of *St. Vincent*, *St. Lucia*, and *Dominico*, if they are prohibited from having it from our Northern Colonies ; but he tells us, *The Danger of their encroaching upon our Backs in America, ought to be of some Moment in our Consideration of this Affair, as well as the Increase of their Shipping and Navigation*, which, he adds, *in case of any Rupture between the two Crowns, would make them more formidable by Sea, where only we have any Reason to value them.* I shall not trouble you with making any Remarks on this Manner of Talking, having, fear, taken up too much of your Tin already, since I am persuaded you will readily perceive, that it is not arguing against, but for our prohibiting the Trade complained of, and a Hint that it will become us to be watchful that the *French* are kept within their Bounds on the

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the Continent of America, and not suffered to make the same Encroachments on our Backs there, as they have done in our Faces in other Parts.

THUS, Sir, as the Sugar Islands are my favourite Contemplation, by having lived a great many Years in the finest of them, I have laid before you my Thoughts on the Dispute now depending before the Honourable House of Commons, between our British Southern, and Northern, Colonies ; and if they have your Approbation, I shall think my Time very well spent, tho' they may not do the Service I may flatter myself they will ; and have only to beg you will excuse my addressing to you in this publick Manner ; for tho' I do not presume to mention your Name, yet there is not one of my Readers but will know to whom I address. I am,

S I R

March 20.

1730.

Your most obliged humble
Servant,

A — r Z — h.

F I N I S.